

Agent Orange: About Agent Orange



Agent Orange is the name given to a blend of herbicides the U.S. military sprayed from 1961 to 1971 in Vietnam to remove foliage that provided enemy cover.

The name “Agent Orange” came from the orange identifying stripe used on the 55-gallon drums in which it was stored.

The military sprayed other herbicide combinations in the so-called Rainbow Herbicides program, identified by the color of their storage drums, including Agent White and Agent Blue. Agent Orange was the blend used most widely.

Herbicides also were used, tested, and stored in areas outside of Vietnam. Learn [how Veterans may have been exposed to Agent Orange](#) and other herbicides during military service, including outside Vietnam.

Active Ingredients

The Agent Orange herbicide combination contained minute traces of 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (also known as TCDD or dioxin), which has been shown to cause a variety of illnesses in laboratory animals.

The two active ingredients in Agent Orange were equal amounts of:

- 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D)
- 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4,5-T), containing minute traces of 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin